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**Hats Reign at Hattitude Day During Target Sundays@ CAAM On Sunday, May 3**

LOS ANGELES, April 18, 2009 — The CAAM annual tradition of parading one's favorite spring headgear continues at the May 3 Target Sundays@CAAM event themed "High Tea and Hattitude." This is the fifth year for this event that draws large crowds of men, women and children, all adorned in distinctive hats, caps, bonnets, fedoras and boaters, who come to participate in the hat parade and compete for top prize by wearing the chapeau with the most "hattitude." All hats are eligible for the prize and past winners have been stylish, eccentric, cartoonish, creative or simply gorgeous.

The daylong event will begin at 11:00 am when the galleries open, as do the artisan and food vendors. At 12 noon, the yearlong community art project gets underway led by artist Teresa Tolliver. This project provides the opportunity for visitors to build their own artwork from found and discarded materials. (While not required, participants are encouraged to bring their own materials.) CAAM's Public Platform features local community groups, providing them with the opportunity to inform the general public about their organization. Following that, the entertainment will begin at 1:00 pm and continue through 4:00. The annual hat showcase begins at 2:30 pm as individuals model their favorite toppers while vying for top prize in the hattitude contest. Everyone is invited to enter the hat showcase. There will be two runner-up prizes and

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one grand prize, but you have to participate in the parade to win. The finalists and winners will be chosen in the finale round at 4:00 pm.

Jamaican born actor Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter serves as entertainment producer and co-host for the event and is a leading judge for the Hattitude Contest. He is well known for his television roles and is founder of a Caribbean-American Repertory Theater. Jeffrey's co-host will be TV and film actress CCH Pounder. Befitting an event featuring high tea and haute couture, the entertainment will feature operatic music with a tip of the hat to contemporary sounds, as well. Featured performers include the beautiful voices of Opera Noir, Dawn Norfleet's CLAS Choir, singer Jayme Alilaw, Veda Diva Hat Modeling Crew and all the lovely ladies and gents who will be parading their special hats. The festivities will be held in the CAAM Courtyard.

Current museum exhibitions will be open to viewers all day. They include "Of Tulips and Shadows: The Visual Metaphors of Dewey Crumpler," "A Moment in Time: Bingham's Black Panthers," and the permanent exhibition, "African American Journey West." Additionally, the Courtyard lobby features "In The Courtyard: Contemporary Women Artists." This is the first installment of a year-long series, "In the Courtyard," a rotating exhibition featuring contemporary works by local artists. Through June 14, the Courtyard spotlights the art of three young African American artists: Loren Holland, Elizabeth Colomba and Nzuji De Magalhaes.

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In

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addition to its permanent collection, CAAM hosts specially mounted exhibitions curated through loans and its own collection, and tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

Located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park, the museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm. Parking in the adjacent lot is \$8.00 all day. Enter the lot from Figueroa and 39<sup>th</sup> Streets. Admission and events at CAAM are always free.

For more information visit [www.caamuseum.org](http://www.caamuseum.org) or call 213-744-2132.

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